

मातृ देवो भव । पितृ देवो भव ।
आचार्य देवो भव । अतिथि देवो भव । 1.11

In terms of आत्मा "I", my mother, my father, my teacher, my guest, and, in fact everyone else are one and the same. But unless I learn to worship, I learn to respect, I learn to cultivate a sense of overriding gratitude to my mother, whoever she is, to my father, whoever he is, to my teacher, whoever he is, and to my guest, whoever that person is, I can never realize what सत्यं is, what TRUTH is. I can never realize the divine presence in anything, I can never realize the true nature of existence, and I can never realize the true nature of my own self.

Therefore, the Vedic command is: "Cultivate a divine respect to your mother, your father, your teacher, and your guest, known or unknown. That is the first step in realizing सत्यं, in gaining ज्ञानं - wisdom, in living a life of fulfillment.